



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land Recycling & Waste Management • Land Recycling Program Fact Sheet 5

Cleanups Using The Statewide Health Standard

Explanation

Under the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act of 1995 (Act 2), anyone who is proposing or is required to clean up a site and wants cleanup liability protection must select one or a combination of the following environmental remediation standards. These standards are: background, Statewide health, and site-specific. A site may also be remediated to special industrial area requirements.

Chapter 250, Administration of Land Recycling Program, established the Statewide health standards. The regulations present a list of cleanup levels for various contaminants. "Medium-specific concentrations," or MSCs, are the concentrations of contaminants associated with a specific environmental medium for potential risk exposures. Different exposure potentials, such as residential and industrial settings, are reflected in different cleanup concentrations providing for equivalent levels of human health protection. The standards generally are met by using treatment and removal technologies. The following criteria were used to establish medium-specific concentrations:

- The concentration of contaminants in groundwater used for drinking or agriculture must meet current drinking water requirements where available. These are maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) or health advisory levels (HALs). Where no MCL or HAL existed, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) developed a standard that protects humans from unacceptable ingestion and inhalation risks.
- For residential standards, the concentration of a contaminant in soil must be protective of direct contact with the soil up to a depth of 15 feet from the surface. Additionally, contaminants left in the soil must not result in excessive contamination of groundwater as determined by one of three methods. Residential standards are designed to protect sensitive individuals, such as children, who may be exposed to the contamination for extended periods of time.
- For nonresidential standards, the concentration of a contaminant in soil must be protective of direct contact with the soil up to a 15-foot depth. Here, different exposure assumptions, such as limited time of contact with the soil, different activities, and healthy worker population (no children), are used to

reflect soil exposure in the workplace. Groundwater must be protected using the same criteria as for residential standards.

- Any regulated discharge into surface water or outdoor air occurring during remediation or after attainment of the Statewide health standard shall be in compliance with the regulations applicable to the discharge.
- Specific criteria apply when establishing medium-specific concentrations for soil and groundwater where no MCLs or HALs are established. These criteria were used for establishing the medium-specific concentration for the ingestion and inhalation of groundwater, soils, and volatiles and particulates. The concentrations were calculated using reasonable exposure pathway assumptions and exposure factors for residential and nonresidential land use. Calculations were based on the following levels of risk:
 - For carcinogens, the medium-specific concentration is the concentration that represents an excess lifetime cancer target risk of one in 100,000.
 - For systemic toxicants, the medium-specific concentration is the concentration that would not result in appreciable risk of deleterious effects due to direct ingestion or inhalation by human populations. (Systemic toxicants are materials that produce non-cancer toxic effects in humans.)

Final certification that a site meets the Statewide health standard must be documented as follows:

- Attainment of cleanup levels must be demonstrated by collecting and analyzing samples from the environmental medium of concern. This may include soil and groundwater sampling.
- A final report documenting attainment of the Statewide health standard must be submitted to DEP.
- Institutional controls such as fencing and land use restrictions can not be used to attain the Statewide health standard. A deed notice is not necessary for sites meeting the residential health standards. Deed acknowledgment requirements do apply where

nonresidential exposure factors were used to comply with the Statewide health standard.

Procedures

When remediating to Statewide health standards, the following procedures must be followed to notify DEP and the public about the cleanup:

- A **notice of intent to remediate** must be sent to the department. DEP will publish an acknowledgment of receipt in The Pennsylvania Bulletin.

- A copy of the notice of intent must be sent to the municipality where the site is located. A summary of the notice must be published in a local newspaper.
- **Notice of submission of the final report** demonstrating attainment of the Statewide health standards must be sent to the municipality, published in a local newspaper, and published in The Pennsylvania Bulletin.
- DEP will review the final report within 60 days. If DEP does not approve the report or respond with a notice of deficiency within 60 days, the final report shall be deemed approved.

Contact Information

For information concerning this initiative and the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program, call (717) 783-7816 or the Information Request Line at (717) 787-6264 to request written material or to place a message on voice mail. You may also visit our web site at website at <http://www.state.pa.us>. (PA Keyword: "Land Recycling"). Questions and comments may be directed to Tom Fidler, Program Manager, at tfidler@state.pa.us.

Environmental Cleanup Program Managers

<p>Bruce Beitler Southeast Regional Office Lee Park, Suite 6010 555 North Lane Conshohocken, PA 19428 Phone: 610-832-5950 Fax: 610-832-6143 Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia</p>	<p>Joseph Brogna Northeast Regional Office 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 Phone: 570-826-2511 Fax: 570-820-4907 Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming</p>
<p>Anthony L. Rathfon Southcentral Regional Office 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 Phone: 717-705 Fax: 717-705-4830 Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York</p>	<p>Michael C. Welch Northcentral Regional Office 208 West Third St., Suite 101 Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: 570-321-6525 Fax: 570-327-3420 Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union</p>
<p>John J. Matviya Southwest Regional Office 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4725 Phone: 412-442-4091 Fax: 412-442-4328 Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Green, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland</p>	<p>Craig Lobins Northwest Regional Office 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335-3481 Phone: 814-332-6648 Fax: 814-332-6121 Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren</p>

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the PA PowerPort at <http://www.state.pa.us> PA Keyword "Land Recycling".



www.GreenWorks.tv - A web space dedicated to helping you learn how to protect and improve the environment. The site features the largest collection of environmental videos available on the Internet and is produced by the nonprofit Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania, with financial support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 877-PA-GREEN.